

AMENDMENTS TO THE ABSTRACT
PATENT APPLICATION SERIAL NO. 10/500,487

A Bluetooth apparatus and method of operating a frequency hopping spread spectrum is provided. The method includes, preferably a Bluetooth piconet, comprising a central node and a plurality of dependent nodes which configured to communicate over a time division duplexed $[[,]]$ frequency hopping channel, a plurality of alternate time-wise frequency/time slots being allocated for central node and dependent node transmission, wherein a first ~~of said~~ dependent node $[[s]]$ is not permitted to transmit in a frequency/time slot which immediately succeeds, time-wise, a frequency/time slot in which the central node is configured to transmit ~~transmitted to a second another of said~~ dependent node, nodes, comprising: ~~the steps of:~~ the central node maintaining a black-list of worse-performing frequency bands for the time division duplexed frequency hopping in the channel; $[[,]]$ and transmitting a dummy packet in a frequency/time slot immediately preceding, time-wise, a frequency/time slot allocated for ~~possible a~~ dependent node transmission at a black-listed frequency band to prevent dependent node transmission which is black-listed at the black-listed frequency band.